

SHALLOW RIDGE
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PE 38-48

Land Resource Area Central Basin

Location Fredericksburg, Mason, Llano,
Burnet, Johnson City, Brady,
San Saba, Junction

Date 6/21/85

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: The site occurs on gently sloping to undulating upland positions with slopes ranging from three to eight percent. The elevation varies from 900 to 1300 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. Soils are sandy loam, loam, and clay loam less than 20 inches deep underlain by partially weathered schist. These soils absorb moisture at a slow to moderately slow rate. The soil-plant-moisture relationship is poor. The amount of water that may be stored for plant growth is limited and moisture is released slowly to plants.
 - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
Ligon-Rock outcrop
Ligon very cobbly loam
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax vegetation is a grassland with a few scattered live oak trees. Mid and short grasses along with forbs and a few small shrubs are present.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE					
Grasses	90%	Woody	5%	Forbs	5%
Indiangrass	T	Live oak	5%	Sensitivebriar	3%
Little bluestem	20%	Post oak		Bundleflower	
Sideoats grama	30%	Hackberry		Engelmann daisy	
		Kidneywood		Orange zexmenia	
Plains lovegrass	25%			Annuals	2%
Sand dropseed					
Arizona cottontop					
Plains bristlegrass					
Vine mesquite					
Canada wildrye					
Silver & pinhole bluestem	15%				
Texas tridens					
Texas wintergrass					
Curly mesquite					
Buffalograss					
Fall witchgrass					
Hairy grama					
Hooded windmillgrass					
Wrights threeawn					

- b. As retrogression starts, Texas wintergrass, fall witchgrass, buffalograss and curlymesquite increase. When it continues to decline, red grama, hairy tridens, purple threeawn, Ozarkgrass and other annuals invade. Common forbs that come in are filaree, Texas croton and coneflower species. Woody and other invaders are Texas colubrina, Texas persimmon, whitebrush, catclaw acacia, mesquite, pricklypear, tasajillo, and lotebush which will dominate the site. The site can deteriorate to an annual type and recovery is very slow when seed source is gone, cover is absent, and surface crusting has occurred.

This site warms up early, but is very droughty in the summer months and summer grasses grow very little after June even when it rains. Drought plans are extremely important on this site.

- c. Approximate total annual yield per acre on this site in excellent condition ranges from 1000 pounds in poor years to 2400 pounds in good years.

APPROVAL

Hert Senne
Area Conservationist

DATE

9/24/85

DATE

10/1/85

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is used by deer, turkey, dove, quail, and several species of non-game birds and small mammals.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>a. Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac./AU/Yearlong</u>
Excellent	76 - 100	15 - 19
Good	51 - 75	17 - 22
Fair	26 - 50	20 - 26
Poor	0 - 25	26+

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

- a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Little bluestem	Buffalograss	Texas grama
Sideoats grama	Curlymesquite	Red grama
Pinhole bluestem	Fall witchgrass	Ozarkgrass
Vine mesquite	Orange zexmenia	Hairy tridens
Engelmannndaisy	Texas wintergrass	Texas persimmon
	Plains lovegrass	Mesquite
	Sand dropseed	Pricklypear
	Plains bristlegrass	Tasajillo
	Texas & Arizona cottontop	Ragweed
	Hooded windmillgrass	Coneflower

- b. Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Engelmannndaisy	Buffalograss	Threeawn
Texas wintergrass	Curlymesquite	Red grama
Sideoats grama	Vine-mesquite	Hairy tridens
Texas tridens	Live oak	Whitebrush
Arizona cottontop	Post oak	Texas persimmon
Fall witchgrass	Silver bluestem	Texas croton
Selected annuals	Hooded windmillgrass	Coneflower
Kidneywood	Plains lovegrass	Pricklypear
Hackberry	Little bluestem	Mesquite
	Silver bluestem	Broomweed
		Ragweed
		Tasajillo

1/ See legend on separate page for definitions of interpretations made for each animal.

c. Goats

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Texas wintergrass	Whitebrush	Texas croton
Sideoats grama	Tasajillo	Coneflower
Texas tridens	Texas persimmon	Pricklypear
Engelmann daisy	Pinhole bluestem	Agarito
Kidneywood	Vine mesquite	Mesquite
Live oak	Curlymesquite	Tasajillo
Hackberry	Buffalograss	Red grama
Post oak	Fall witchgrass	Threeawn
Annuals	Orange zexmenia	Texas grama
	Hooded windmillgrass	
	Little bluestem	

d. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Engelmann daisy	Live oak	Tasajillo
Orange zexmenia	Whitebrush	Texas colubrina
Hackberry	Catclaw acacia	Agarito
Kidneywood	Ozarkgrass	Texas croton
Oak (mast)	Rescuegrass	Pricklypear
	Texas wintergrass	Most other grasses
	Low panicums	Coneflower

e. Quail and Dove

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
(seed of)	(seed of)	(seed of)
Texas croton	Panicums	Other grasses
Hackberry	Vine mesquite	Basin sneezeweed
Bursage ragweed	Texas tridens	Coneflower
Annual grass	Plains bristlegrass	
Annual forb	Texas bluebonnet	
Oak (acorns)	Texas colubrina	

Legend and Definitions for Range Site Descriptions.

- 1/ This rating system provides general guidance as to animal preference for plant species. It also indicates possible competition between kinds of animals for the various plants. Grazing preference changes from time to time and place to place depending upon the animals, upon plant palatability and nutritive value, stage of growth and season of use, relative abundance, and associated plants. Grazing preference does not necessarily reflect a plant's ecological place in the climax plant community.

The following definitions apply to cattle, sheep, goats, deer and antelope grazing.

Primary: These species generally decrease when the climax plant community is subjected to continuous heavy grazing pressure by the animals listed.

Secondary: These plants usually increase initially, then decrease when the site is subjected to continuous heavy grazing use by the animals listed.

Low Value: These plants continue to increase or invade with heavy continuous grazing use of the site.

For squirrel, peccary and birds the terms primary, secondary, and low value indicate species preference only. They do not indicate plant response to feeding pressure, nor do they have any ecological significance.